

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date:** February 11, 2009  
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## **Deadly Morning Commute Reminds Us of Driver Safety**

On Wednesday, at approximately 04:15 am, a 28-year-old Sea-Tac man was tragically killed after he crashed his vehicle and came to rest facing southbound in the northbound lanes of SR 509 at 128<sup>th</sup> St. After the collision the driver exited his vehicle and was struck by 3 passing motorists who could not stop in time to avoid hitting him.

The State Patrol acknowledges that every situation is different. However, they would like to remind motorists that in most instances if their vehicle becomes disabled to stay in the vehicle with their seatbelts fastened and immediately call 911. It is **never** safe to walk around the vehicle or attempt to do repairs in the middle of the roadway.

"At the scene of a collision the safest place to be is inside your vehicle buckled up. If you get hit by a car going 60mph, you have a better chance of surviving being surrounded by solid metal than nothing at all," stated Lieutenant Jeff Sass with the Washington State Patrol.

The State Patrol also wants to remind drivers to slow down and drive at reasonable safe speeds, especially when the roadways are wet and temperatures are near, or below, freezing. A reasonable safe speed may be well under the posted speed limit.

The fatality collision on SR 509 was one of 52 collisions that King County Troopers responded to between 4:00am and 9:00am of Wednesday morning's commute, 5 of which resulted in injury.